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## NOTES ON NORTH AMERICAN GRASSES.

## I. ANDROPOGON DIVARICATUM.

ANDROPOGON DIVARICATUM L. Spec. Pl. 1045.—This North American grass has been neglected because it could not be identified. The description is meager and misleading. The first species of Andropogon described by Linnaeus, *A. contortum*, is now referred to Heteropogon. The second species is *A. divaricatum*, described as follows:

Andropogon spica oblonga, floribus lanatis remotis divaricatis: arista flexuosa nuda.

Lagurus humilior, panícula conica laxa nutante culmum terminante. Gron. Virg. 135.

Habitat in Virginia.

It is interesting to note that the *Index Kewensis* maintains the species, as Mr. Jackson had no reason for doing anything else with it. Mr. Munro in his account of the grasses in Linnaeus's Herbarium refers this to *Andropogon ternatus* Nees. Hackel in his monograph of the Andropogoneae suspects that it should be referred to *A. argyraeus* Schult., as *A. ternatus* is a South American species which Munro may have confused with *A. argyraeus*. I have recently examined the specimen of *A. divaricatum* in the Linnaean Herbarium and find that it is identical with his specimen of *A. alopecuroides* described as no. 4 of the *Species Plantarum*. The specimen, however, is quite fragmentary, consisting of a main axis with eight remote and divaricate branches, the whole forming an oblong spike about two inches long. The branches have from one to three spikelets. The plant was old, and all the others have fallen off. The spikelets are identical, however, with those of *A. alopecuroides*. In both cases the awn is twisted.

Linnaeus gives as synonym Gronovius 135. This is founded on Clayton's no. 600 from Virginia and is *Andropogon nutans* L. I examined this in the Herbarium of the British Museum where the plants of Gronovius are deposited.

The description of Linnaeus evidently applies to his own specimen rather than to Gronovius's plant. Strict application of the rules of priority would require that the specific name *divaricatum* be taken up for *A. alopecuroides*, which is an *Erianthus*, but as I do not wish to be quoted for such a binomial I do not make the combination. In this connection it may be noted that some botanists consider the twisted awn of *Erianthus* as a specific character. In Britton's *Manual* we have *Erianthus alopecuroides* (L.) Ell., but Elliott's plant has the

straight awn, hence on the above-mentioned basis *Andropogon alopecuroides* L. and *Erianthus alopecuroides* Ell. are not identical. My own opinion is that these, *E. saccharoides* Michx., and *E. compactus* Nash are all forms of the same species.

The third species described by Linnaeus is *A. nutans*. The plant in the Linnaean herbarium is what we have generally been calling by that name. Two synonyms are given. The first is *Andropogon folio superiore*, etc., of Gronovius based on Clayton no. 621, which is *Stipa avenacea* L. The second synonym is *Gramen avenaceum*, etc., Sloan, Jam. 35. Sloan's plants are also deposited in the herbarium of the British Museum. His plant is *Andropogon insularis* L.

The fourth species of *Andropogon* described by Linnaeus, *A. alopecuroides*, is founded upon a large panicle in his herbarium and upon Gronovius Virg. p. 133, Clayton no. 601, which is the same. The third synonym is Sloan, Jam. 3. Sloan's plant I take to be a different species of *Erianthus*.

## II. DACTYLIS CYNOSUROIDES L.

DACTYLIS CYNOSUROIDES L. Spec. Pl. 71.

Dactylis spicis sparsis secundis scabris numerosis.

Gramen maritimum, spica crassa dactyloide terminali, odore rancido, culmo albo. Gron. Virg. 135.

β. Dactylis spicis alteriis secundis incisis erectis approximatis, calycibus unifloris subulatis. Gron. Virg. 134.

Habitat in Virginia, Canada, Lusitania.

Then follows a more extended description.

It is quite probable that Linnaeus may have included the two species that are now referred to *Spartina cynosuroides* Willd. and *S. polystachya* Willd. in the above, as he gives Canada as one of the type localities; while Merrill in his recent monograph of *Spartina* limits the range of the former from Canada to New Jersey and the latter from New Jersey to Florida. The two species were first distinguished by Michaux in his *Flora* as *Trachynotia cynosuroides* and *T. polystachya*. Michaux applied the specific names as have later authors under *Spartina*.

However, the specimen of *Dactylis cynosuroides* in the Linnaean Herbarium is *Spartina polystachya* Willd. (or Elliott, as Willdenow does not actually make the combination in his *Enumeratio*, but refers *Trachynotia polystachya* Michx. to *Spartina*). The specimen in the Gronovius Herbarium ("*Gramen maritimum*, etc.") is also *S. polystachya* Willd. Linnaeus's description might apply to either species,

but better to *S. polystachya*, especially the statement "calycibus mucronatis," for in *S. cynosuroides* the second glume is short-awned.

The locality, Canada, may refer to the variety  $\beta$ , which is *Spartina glabra* Muhl. both as to the plant in Herbarium Linnaeus and Herbarium Gronovius.

The Rochester code would require that the specific name *cynosuroides* be applied to the Linnaean plant, but I will leave the transfer for those who are thus inclined. According to the Kew rule the names are correct as now used under *Spartina*.—A. S. HITCHCOCK, *U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.*